



# STICKER A MUSSEL

# REPORT

## NOVEMBER 2014 INVASIVE SPECIES ACTIVITY REPORT – LAKE HAVASU MARINE ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2014

### STICKER A MUSSEL SCORECARD

LAKE HAVASU REPORT	November 2014	YTD	Running
	Total	Total	
# Trailers Stickered	166	3846	8,445
From California	40	1763	4,763
From Other States (not AZ)	21	365	744
From Canada	1	10	25
PARKER STRIP REPORT	November 2014 Total	YTD	Running
		Total	
# Trailer Stickered	0	180	180
From California	0	96	96
From Other States	0	3	3
From Canada	0	0	0

No report from Parker Strip for November due to operational changes and procedural re-training to be instituted in early 2015.

**Note:** California boaters are making up a slightly smaller percentage of the lower Colorado River boating population as winter approaches, a normal seasonal drop in activity. The decline in California boaters to the lower Colorado River traditionally begins in late September and will rise again in early spring (March). One of the strategic adjustments to be made to the campaign in spring 2015 is to utilize new volunteers to staff the Site Six public ramp on a regular basis providing more opportunity to reach new boaters who have not been previously “stickered”.

**From the Agricultural Border Stations:** Jim Salscheider personally visited all four Agricultural Border Stations in November (Needles, Vidal Junction, Yuma and Blythe).

**Trending:** Red Ear Sunfish Study – Lake Havasu

A science major at ASU-Havasus is studying the Havasu Red Ear Sunfish for his senior thesis.



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Most notable is their unusually large size noted by fishermen and biologists in recent years (the same has been reported in the size increase of crawdads as well). Five Red Ears over five pounds each have been caught in the last two years, with the largest nearly six pounds. For this species, it is likely a world record. It appears they are feeding on the quagga mussels, but what else accounts for their unusually large size?

Jim Salscheider along with a local fishing guide took the ASU student out for a day of Red Ear fishing in November. A number of Red Ears were caught and the student will forensically study what the fish have been feeding upon.

It's also interesting to note that boats kept in-water at the local Havasu marina have experienced reduced mussels infestation over the last two years. Where is the largest concentration of Red Ears? They are most commonly found under the docks in the marina. Is that why their size is so large? Are they having that significant of an impact on the mussels? Are they feeding on the quagga mussels? If so, should this species of fish be protected?

The LHMA is participating in the funding of this local research in conjunction with a small ASU grant. Any information on this subject would add to the development of this research paper.

### **More Trending: California Lakes, Drought, Low Water Levels**

LHMA has discovered a current water level chart for most popular California lakes and it's a grim outlook for local California boaters in the future. Drought conditions coupled with increasing mussel restrictions potentially forecasts reduced recreational boating activity for both northern and southern California. This in turn suggests that greater numbers of boaters will be frequenting the lower Colorado River in the years to come.

This water level chart will be used as an exhibit, along with updates on mussel restrictions, in a 2015 ASU second semester white paper entitled "The Sustainability of the Trailer Boat Industry in California and its Impact on the Lower Colorado River". The LHMA will provide data, contacts and mentoring for this project with select students under the direction of Dr. Sharon Harvey of ASU.

### **INTERNET/SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH**

Added multiple posts and articles to the LHMA website on Invasive Species and the campaign. Articles included: "Montana Governor Signs Executive Order to Combat AIS", "ABYC Schedules Summit on AIS", and "Proposed Wisconsin Lake ByPass Raises AIS Concerns".

The Lake Havasu Marine Association Facebook page added new posts about Invasive Species updates and information generating a monthly reach of over 1,872.



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Threads specifically targeting Invasive Species information have been started and answered on various Internet boating/fishing forums such as: Performance Boats.com, Boats.com, TheHullTruth.com, Offshore Only.com, Westernbass.com, Riverdavesplace.com, Hotboat.com, Bassresource.com, Wakeboard.com. Specific questions/comments about inspection procedures for 2014, possible fines and penalties, the pull your plug campaign, more lakes discovering possible

Quagga Mussel contamination, new products coming on market to make complying with "Clean, Drain and Dry" easier for boaters (Catwrench). During September, more than 4,650 views were generated and approximately 31 comments were posted regarding AIS issues.

Distributed email blast to over 11,117 boaters (CA, AZ, NV) reminding them of how easy it is to spread invasive species if proper care is not taken, be prepared for border inspections (or lake inspections) and remember the new 'Pull Your Plug' law is in effect. Pay particular attention to weeds/vegetation hanging on trailer bunks and fenders. Special care should be made to thoroughly clean anchors and anchor lines. Also, wet PFDs need to be allowed open air and completely dry.

### NEWSLETTER

The LHMA Newsletter is published once a month, highlighted by the "STICKER A MUSSEL SCORECARD" (November 2014 edition). It captures the monthly results including total number of boats/trailers stickered, which state the trailer license plate is from by category, the number of 'stickered' trailers observed and recorded by the California Border Stations, and a list of any boats/trailers that failed inspection and why. There are 2,197 boaters on this distribution list.

### BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND

Jim Salscheider and Bob Brown will be attending the January 27-28, 2015 ABYC summit in Las Vegas regarding future boat, engine and propulsion design and construction as it relates to future AIS issues.

A SoCal-based entrepreneur has created a new device to remove difficult to reach drain plugs called a "cat wrench" because it is designed primarily for performance air-entrapment hulls with recessed transoms. It is a "back saver" and eliminates the need to get down on your knees and crawl under the hull to remove a plug. The LHMA has purchased four of these for the CAL border stations as a Christmas present and one for WIT trainer Dee Davis as a class exhibit. It is a handy tool for inspectors to have. ([www.catwrench.com](http://www.catwrench.com))

The "Sticker A Mussel" program has now "stickered" 8,445 total boats/trailers (166 stickered in the month of November 2014). Each boat owner received personal one-on-one information and a



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'sticker' about Invasive Species prevention. The program includes volunteers working local launch ramps on weekends – dozens of local businesses (boat mfgs., boat dealers, marine repair/service shops, waterfront restaurants, hotels etc.) distributing Invasive Species information/education, placing 'stickers' on the trailer and recording trailer license plates to monitor/verify activity. Continued to distribute the Lake Havasu Marine Association created Invasive Species 'rack card' to boaters at launch ramps and local marine stores (35,000 cards printed and over 34,000 distributed to the local "stickerer locations" to date). In addition, local hotels, tourist information center and numerous retail shops distribute them as an information/educational source. LHMA will inventory supplies of 'rack cards' on hand to start 2015.